

Report on Camp Gilmont and Conference Center for 2018 Representative Meeting (11/2018)

At Representative Meeting 2016 it was agreed that the YM Planning Committee, with a few additional volunteers, would diligently search for a site for Representative Meeting in 2018 and bring a report to SCYM 2017 spring sessions. The target area was east of Interstate 35 between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City, south of Interstate 40 and north of Interstate 30. I coordinated the efforts of several people who suggested locations by following up via Internet and phone calls.

No report was ready for 2017 SCYM annual sessions but John and Tina Coffin located a site just south of the targeted area about half way between Interstate 20 and Interstate 30 and north east of the town of Gilmer, TX. This location was used for SCYM sessions prior to 1989, but the facility has changed a great deal since then. While affiliated with the Presbyterian Church it is run independently. John and Tina Coffin and I met with the camp administration on May 8, 2017 and toured the campus. We agreed that the O'Neal Center would meet our needs.

The O'Neal Center includes the dining hall and three separate meeting rooms, two with seating for 25 and the third for about 50. The same building has four ADA bedrooms. Additional bedrooms are up a few steps in adjacent lodges. Each bedroom has twin beds and a private bath. Linens are included. They are used to providing vegan and gluten-free food during the camp season, so they should be able to meet our food needs. The projected cost would be \$130.00/person for two nights and five meals. (We are paying Greene Family Camp (GFC) \$120.00/person this year.) If members of a committee wanted to arrive on Thursday for meetings during the day on Friday, there would be a charge of \$15.00/night, and \$ 8.00 for breakfast and \$ 9.00 for lunch. (Currently GFC does not charge for early arrival overnight accommodations and Friends provide their own food.)

The date they would have available in 2018 is one week earlier than we normally meet.

This is the only viable* location that the ad hoc group could find, presently. I recommend that Friends take a virtual tour on the Camp Gilmont web site, www.gilmont.org. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns prior to 2017 Representative Meeting at jhouser@compassnet.com. This matter will be on the agenda of meeting for worship with attention to business.

Respectfully submitted, Jane E. Houser, clerk YM Planning Committee

**Viable location includes: open in November, minimally accessible, open to hosting 30 people, no need to sign a statement of beliefs, affordable, vegetarian food, adequate meeting spaces, etc.*